

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A process for the preparation of (R)-1,2-propanediol, comprising: cultivating a microorganism Pseudomonas nitroreducens DS-S-RP8 (Deposit No.: FERM BP-7793) or Alcaligenes sp. DS-S-7G (Deposit No.: FERM BP-3098) ~~microorganism belonging to the genus Pseudomonas or genus Alcaligenes~~ which assimilates (S)-1,2-propanediol in a complete synthetic medium containing racemic 1,2-propanediol as a single carbon source ~~source, in a culture medium containing racemic 1,2-propanediol as a single carbon source or a complete synthetic medium containing racemic 1,2-propanediol as a single carbon source;~~ wherein the microorganism stereoselectively ~~assimulates~~ assimilates (S)-1,2-propanediol; and then isolating the remaining (R)-1,2-propanediol from the culture broth.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The process according to claim 1 wherein the microorganism is Pseudomonas nitroreducens DS-S-RP8 (Deposit No.: FERM BP-7793).

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Original) Pseudomonas nitroreducens DS-S-RP8 (Deposit No.: FERM BP-7793).

6. (Cancelled)

7. (New) A process for the preparation of (R)-1,2-propanediol, comprising: cultivating in a medium containing racemic 1,2-propanediol, a microorganism Pseudomonas nitroreducens DS-S-RP8 (Deposit No.: FERM BP-7793) or Alcaligenes sp. DS-S-7G (Deposit No.: FERM BP-3098), which microorganism stereoselectively assimilates (S)-1,2-propanediol in preference to (R)-1,2-propanediol, and then isolating (R)-1,2-propanediol from the culture broth.